

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

S/LPB

ACTION SLIP

unclassified
(Attachment Classification)

SADIXED

S/S CONTROL NUMBER:

7516008

ACTION ASSIGNED TO:

AF

DATE: 8/8/75

(Action Office Instructions on Reverse)

ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ SPRINGSTEEN TO SCOWCROFT MEMO
☐ SPRINGSTEEN TO☐ with Draft reply for signature
by☐ with Comment or Recommendation☒ DIRECT REPLY on behalf of 5☐ provide info copy under cover
of SPRINGSTEEN to

Memo

☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE
BY☐ provide comeback copy
for

RECOMMENDATION FOR

☐ with Memorandum for the President☐ APPROPRIATE HANDLING☐ FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DUE IN S/S BY: MA

CLEAR WITH: S-1 - Wes Egan

REMARKS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

☒ S
☒ D
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☐ S/S
☐ S/S-O
☐ S/S-EX
☐ S/S-S
☐ TEAM A
☐ TEAM B
☒ TEAM C
☒ S/S-I (RF)☐ S/AB
☐ S/AJ
☒ S/CCT
☐ S/CPR
☐ S/IG
☐ S/IL
☐ S/NM
☐ S/P
☐ S/PRS
☐ S/R
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☒ M/DG
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☐ D/PW
☐ D/IWY
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☐ ARA
☐ EA
☐ EUR
☐ NEA
☐ ACDA
☐ AID
☐ AID/IDC☒ S-LSE
☒ S-LPB

FROM:

James Buechel

S/S-S:

21522

28338

(NAME)
28062

7515008

May

P750126-1463

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE4011 Thornoaks
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
August 1, 1975The Honorable Henry Kissinger ^{1975 AUG 5 AM 9 54}
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.FADRC
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Dear Mr. Secretary:

ACTION
is assigned to

AF

I am writing as the father of Barbara Smuts, one of the four primate researchers kidnaped in Tanzania on May 19 by members of the Popular Revolutionary Party of Eastern Zaire. Now that my daughter and her three friends all have been returned unharmed, I want to express my gratitude for the efforts of the State Department on their behalf, and particularly for the truly magnificent performance of United States Ambassador to Tanzania, W. Beverly Carter.

I have heard nothing but praise for Ambassador Carter's role in this very difficult situation -- from my daughter and my wife who were in daily contact with him during their two weeks in Dar Es Salaam after my daughter's release (including several days as his guest in his residence) -- from Professor David Hamburg of Stanford University and Professor Peter Steiner of the University of Michigan, both of whom worked closely with Ambassador Carter for the release of the hostages -- and from Mr. Wendell Coote of the East African Office of State with whom I talked frequently on the telephone.

It is obvious that Ambassador Carter must have faced some very difficult and sensitive problems in working for the release of hostages held by rebels in Zaire, while at the same time protecting broader United States interests in both Tanzania and Zaire, at a time when relationships with the government of Zaire were under great strain. Everything I have learned about his actions indicates that he performed with the greatest of competence, discretion and dedication.

I know that all of those directly involved are convinced that the safe return of four remarkable young scientists could not have been achieved without Ambassador Carter's efforts. That these efforts succeeded without, to my knowledge, causing any embarrassment to any of the governments involved, suggests to me that he must be a true diplomat. It is also apparent from the information available to me that the release of the hostages was aided immeasurably by the good standing Ambassador Carter continued to enjoy with President Nyerere and the government of Tanzania.

It is good to know that our country and its citizens are represented abroad by men of Ambassador Carter's character and caliber. I hope that he will have the opportunity to employ his great abilities in even more important assignments in years to come, and I shall follow his career with interest.

As a small token of my gratitude to you, to the State Department, to Mr. Coote and his staff in the East African Office and to Ambassador Carter, I am sending copies of this letter of thanks to President Ford, to all members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and to all members of the

4011 Thornoaks
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
August 1, 1975

The Honorable Henry Kissinger
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I know that my husband and several others who were intimately involved in efforts to secure the release of the four researchers abducted into Zaire from the Gombe Stream Research Centre in Tanzania are writing to tell you about the superb performance of U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, W. Beverly Carter. I concur wholeheartedly in their appraisal of Ambassador Carter's crucial role in saving the lives of the hostages. My intention in writing, however, is to tell you some things about the Ambassador that are not revealed by comments on his official role.

Upon my arrival in Dar Es Salaam on the morning of May 27, I was told a moving and dramatic story by my daughter, Barbara Smuts, and Professor Peter Steiner of the University of Michigan Law School, then on leave at the University of Nairobi, who had flown to Dar at our request and was present at the press conference held the preceding day by President Nyerere, Ambassador Carter and Barbara.

A private meeting was scheduled, just before the press conference, between the President, the Ambassador and Barbara. A few hours earlier, Ambassador Carter ate a piece of cookie which contained peanut oil. He has an allergic reaction to peanuts, in any form, which will cause death within hours if an injection of adrenalin is not administered. This time, the first injection was not enough and the Ambassador was forced to take three-and-a-half times the prescribed dosage (which my own allergist tells me was also life-threatening) in order to carry on. At the scene of the meeting, shortly before he and Barbara were to join President Nyerere, he went into adrenalin shock. My daughter said that she thought he was about to die before her eyes. While others helped the Ambassador, Barbara was summoned to the interview with President Nyerere.

Through what must have been a heroic act of will, Ambassador Carter participated in the press conference immediately after the interview. Although I was not present, I have listened to a tape recording of the press conference. In spite of his physical distress, Ambassador Carter handled the situation magnificently.

President Nyerere, as you know, firmly and angrily rejected all the kidnapers' demands. Ambassador Carter supported the President and added that the U.S. government never, in any circumstances, could or would pay ransom for the release of its citizens. Nevertheless, he also managed to express clearly, more than once, his optimism that a way would be found to secure the release of the hostages. This was the only hint that ~~that~~ the abductors had, for a long time, that their demands were not completely and finally rejected. The parents of the hostages and the others involved believe that Ambassador Carter's responses at that otherwise utterly negative press conference may well have prevented precipitous action by the abductors.

I should like to comment also on the Ambassador's personal kindness to my daughter. No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-238-6-35-3
violently ill in the middle of the night after the press conference. Mr

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arrived the next morning. That day and night, because the telephone lines were down, they made four automobile trips to fetch a doctor and nurse. In spite of the fact that their son and daughter-in-law had just arrived for their first holiday in Africa, Ambassador and Mrs. Carter insisted that both Barbara and I remain as their guests until they were certain that Barbara was well enough for hotel living. Almost two weeks later, when Barbara was still unwell and still undiagnosed, Ambassador Carter arranged for her medical evacuation to London and personally saw us off at the airport. I might add that his wit, charm and good spirits helped all of us to get through those dismal days after Barbara was released and the fate of her friends was still uncertain.

Today, when the press is so full of stories about the failings and misdeeds of some public servants, it gives me special pleasure to be able to relate to you a few incidents which demonstrate the outstanding qualities of this member of your staff. If my letter and those of others about Ambassador Carter persuade you to place him in a position where he will have the opportunity to serve many more people as well as he served us, I shall consider it one of the few constructive results to come out of this whole unhappy episode.

Very sincerely yours,

Alice Smuts
Alice Smuts